

December 30, 1969

MEMORANDUM

TO: State/INR - Dr. Cline
State/PM - Mr. Spiers
State/EUR - Mr. Springsteen

FROM: ACDA/DD - Philip J. Farley

SUBJECT: Intra-alliance Disclosure Policy on Verification Techniques

I have the impression that our disclosure policy on the whole range of national means has fallen seriously behind our negotiation requirements, our liason requirements with Congress, and our policy formation needs in general. I appreciate the intelligence community's need to safeguard its resources, but submit that we are losing Alliance confidence in the name of security. Recent experience has shown that there is skepticism in NATO about our unilateral means and hence I think it important that we reexamine disclosure policy.

As a start in approaching this problem, Dr. Cline has proposed short term confidence building briefings, either bilaterally or to NATO Perm Reps focused on our verification capabilities. He has pointed out that such briefings have been conducted in the past, both in capitals and once to Perm Reps in the context of intelligence about the Soviet Union. These briefings, at least in the short term, tend to promote confidence in American intelligence about strategic and general purpose forces.

I would therefore appreciate your early views on two possible steps:

- 1.) Stimulating the 156 Committee to bring classification on certain information down to a level which will be compatible with our policy needs while still safeguarding the elements that must be safeguarded.

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- 2.) The January NATO POLADS meeting promises to raise more than the normal quota of verification questions. The need to proceed now with actual instructions for BFR model building indicates that we should say something about verification at that time. At a minimum, I think we could help turn off "national verification" discussion for this session by promising briefings in capitals, or in NATO sometime this spring, i.e. by permitting the US delegation, in January, to forestall questions by announcing briefings in capitals and/or for Perm Reps at an indeterminate but not too distant date.

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